## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /086 W

R 121614Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7094 INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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**FODAG** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, KS, VN

SUBJECT: CANDIDACY OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR FAO COUNCIL SEAT

REF: STATE 209387

- 1. NEWLY ARRIVED KOREAN MINISTER LEE WON-HO, WHO WILL BE ONE OF THE KOREAN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO NOW THAT KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ACCREDITED AS REPRESENTATIVE, CALLED FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9 ON U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO, WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN ACQUAINTED NINETEEN YEARS AGO IN SEOUL.
- 2. MINISTER LEE RAISED THE SUBJECT OF KOREA'S APPLICATION FOR FAO COUNCIL SEAT. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED HIM OF POSITION CONVEYED TO KOREAN GOVERNMENT BY DEPARTMENT (PARA 1 REFTEL). MINISTER LEE SAID THAT THEY ARE CONSULTING WITH ASIAN REGIONAL GROUP REGARDING KOREAN CANDIDACY. INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE FILED FOR RE-ELECTION, AND KOREA IS TRYING FOR THE NEW THIRD ASIAN SEAT EXPECTED TO COME UP IN THE ELECTIONS BY THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER.

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- 3. KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THEIR CANDIDACY WITH FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA, IN COURSE OF KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S RECENT CALL WHEN HE WAS ACCREDITED TO FAO. SAOUMA TOLD THEM VIET-NAM IS ALSO TRYING TO OBTAIN THAT SEAT.
- 4. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD

HEARD OF THE VIETNAMESE CANDIDACY, BUT HE COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT NOT SO MUCH IN TERMS OF GOOD VIETNAMESE PROSPECTS AS IN TERMS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S CANDIDACY. HE URGED KOREANS, IF THEY MAINTAIN THEIR CANDIDACY, NOT TO ATTACK THE VIETNAMESE CANDIDACY BUT SIMPLY TO PRESENT THEIR OWN CANDIDACY ON ITS OWN MERITS, AS A COUNTRY THAT HAS LONG PARTICIPATED CONSTRUCTIVELY IN FAO ACTIVITY. HE RECALLED THAT IN THE PREVIOUS FAO CONFERENCE IN 1975, THE KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD RESPONDED QUITE EFFECTIVELY TO POLITICAL ATTACKS FROM CHINA, HUNGARY, AND GUINEA, BY MAKING ONLY A PRO FORMA REPLY AND ASSERTING THAT THIS FAO MEETING WAS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR SUCH POLITICAL DEBATES.

5. THE KOREANS EXPECT THEIR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO ATTEND THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER. HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE THE FIFTH SPEAKER IN THE PLENARY ON NOVEMBER 16, FOLLOWING SECRETARY BERGLAND, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO BE SECOND. THE KOREANS HAD PLANNED TO GIVE A RECEPTION THAT EVENING, BUT UPON LEARNING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND INDONESIA ARE ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING, ARE SHIFTING THEIR RECEPTION TO NOVEMBER 17.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME14773
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Format: TEL

Film Number: D770330-0911

From: ROME

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770974/aaaackha.tel

Line Count: 85 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82028648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 77 STĂTE 209387

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1307286 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CANDIDACY OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR FAO COUNCIL SEAT

TAGS: OCON, KS, VN, FAO

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/82028648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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